

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the Application. With reference to the listing it is noted that, herewith, claims 16 and 20 are amended, and claims 1-15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A service provision method of providing, via the Internet, a service to an apparatus to which a first network and a second network are connected, comprising:

a first acquisition step of acquiring a host address of ~~[[an]]~~ the apparatus, as connected to ~~[[a]]~~ the first network, before the apparatus is connected to ~~[[a]]~~ the second network;

a second acquisition step of acquiring owner information of the apparatus;

a third acquisition step of acquiring a network address of the second network in accordance with the owner information acquired at the second acquisition step from a database storing the network address of the second network and the owner information of the apparatus;

a fourth acquisition step of acquiring, when a signal is transmitted from the apparatus via the second network, a host address and a network address of a sending side ~~of a~~ included in the signal from the apparatus connected to the second network; and

a provision step of providing ~~[[a]]~~ the service, via the Internet, to the apparatus ~~connected to~~ via the second network in the case in which the host address acquired in said first acquisition

step and the network address acquired in said third acquisition step coincide with the host address and the network address acquired in said fourth acquisition step.

17. (Previously Presented) The service provision method according to claim 16, wherein, in said first acquisition step, the host address of the apparatus connected to the first network in an apparatus factory is acquired.

18. (Previously Presented) The service provision method according to claim 16, wherein, in said third acquisition step, a part of the network address of the second network is acquired from an Internet service provider for connecting the second network to the Internet.

19. (Previously Presented) The service provision method according to claim 16, wherein, in said third acquisition step, a part of the network address of the second network is acquired from a DNS server.

20. (Currently Amended) A service provision apparatus for providing, via the Internet, a service to an apparatus to which a first network and a second network are connected, comprising:

reception means which receives data via ~~a network~~ the Internet; and

provision means which provides ~~[[a]] the service, via the Internet, to the apparatus via the second network~~;

wherein said reception means receives a host address of ~~[[an]] the apparatus, as connected to [[a]] the first network,~~ before the apparatus is connected to ~~[[a]] the second network,~~ owner information of the apparatus, and a network address of the second network in

accordance with the received owner information of the apparatus from a database storing the
network address of the second network and the owner information of the apparatus, and a host
address and a network address of a sending side of a signal from the apparatus connected to the
second network and

wherein when said reception means receives a signal transmitted from the apparatus via
the second network, said provision means determines whether or not the host address of the
apparatus as connected to the first network and the network address of the second network
coincide with the host address and the network address of a sending side included in the signal,
and provides [[a]] the service, via the Internet, to the apparatus connected to via the second
network in the case in which the host address of the apparatus as connected to the first network
and the network address of the second network coincide with the host address and the network
address of the sending side the apparatus connected to the second network.